

gent quality control and legal standards, has become a life saving device. The chapter on latex condom manufacture was fascinating and gives almost enough detail to allow you to try it at home!

Each year 8–10 billion condoms are used worldwide although an estimated 15 billion are required to protect adequately against HIV/STDs. The chapter outlining the effectiveness of condoms in preventing STIs was clearly set out with an excellent summary table outlining data and references. There was a fascinating chapter on how the commercial sector has risen to the challenge of global condom distribution through social marketing. By using pre-existing infrastructure, supplies to Africa have increased from 45.8 million in 1987 to 264.5 million in 1990. In Thailand by targeting commercial sex workers through "the 100% condom programme" usage rates have increased from 14% in 1982–9 to 93% in 1993 with STI cases in government clinics dropping from 237 000 to 39 000. In the chapter on condoms and commercial sex there was a fabulous table summarising different condom usage rates by CSWs in developing countries.

The condom should probably receive more credit as a contraceptive device. Failure rates diminish with increasing experience and it may be a suitable long term option for some women when combined with knowledge of fertile days and progesterone only emergency contraception. There were interesting discussions on the use of condoms for anal sex, the pros and cons of non-latex condoms, female condoms (becoming increasingly popular, especially in Zimbabwe), and recent developments in spermicides and virucides.

In summary, condoms are highly effective, cheap, and largely free of side effects. This book left me with a renewed belief that they should be promoted at every opportunity and efforts to make them universally available should continue unabated. I would highly recommend this book to anyone working in the field of sexual health.

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CD-ROM REVIEW

Topics in International Health: HIV/AIDS. £30 for individuals, £20 or £45 for institutions in developing countries, and £120 for "first world" institutions, post inclusive with a 30 day money back guarantee. CD-Roms are not Apple Mac compatible. Oxon: CABI Publishing, 2000.

So the clinic's not going well—you've too many patients and four students have all rolled up at once. Trouble is, they are all bearing evaluation forms, and hanging around the corridor is not going to be great for departmental kudos in the medical school teaching stakes. CD-Roms are now the standard fall back for a loose half hour—and this one is definitely the way to get top ratings. It is superbly designed with a host of easy features. Technically there were no problems with installation, and the package

ran happily on a Pentium 100 with limited memory, which is welcome when the latest PCs remain out of reach to most in the NHS or in resource-poor countries.

The CD-Rom covers the whole of HIV/AIDS from testing through opportunistic disease to the psychosocial and community impact of the unfolding epidemic. The well crafted material is grouped into 11 tutorials with 50-odd pages each, broken up with well designed interactive quizzes to aid factual recall, such as matching HIV prevalence to world region by dragging numbers across a map. In the best educational fashion, wrong answers are met with a gentle reminder of the right answer and an offer to review the section again. A glossary is just a click away should a word be unclear, and a full reference list is hidden on each page for those wanting to explore more. A separate section allows incredibly flexible searching of a rich international collection of over 700 images by keyword or text. These can then be viewed as thumbnails for rapid review, tagged for later printing, or saved in a personalised teaching set. Sneaking the illustrations onto my own 35 mm slides proved beyond my hacking ability, but I wanted to show just how good the pictures are.

Improvements for the next edition might include integrating the references with Medline abstracts (for example, offering searches for other works on the subject of interest or finding works which cite the article in question), and including more video material such as interviews with key players in the field.

On a deeper level, such an international approach to teaching HIV/AIDS fits well with the emphasis of the recent international AIDS conference on the whole HIV epidemic, not just the treatment options open to those affected by HIV in resource-rich countries. The sections on treatment reflecting mainly resource-rich practices sit uneasily with the pictures of AIDS orphans and underfunded African hospitals. That this CD-Rom left me feeling uncomfortable about the structural inequity of the world is testament to the vision of its creators.

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NOTICES

International Herpes Alliance and International Herpes Management Forum

The International Herpes Alliance has introduced a website (www.herpesalliance.org) from which can be downloaded patient information leaflets. Its sister organisation the International Herpes Management Forum (website: www.IHMF.org) has launched new guidelines on the management of herpesvirus infections in pregnancy at the 9th International Congress on Infectious Disease (ICID) in Buenos Aires.

Pan-American Health Organization, regional office of the World Health Organization

A catalogue of publications is available online (www.paho.org). The monthly journal of

PAHO, the Pan American Journal of Public Health, is also available (subscriptions: pubsvc@tsp.sheridan.com).

International Symposium on Disorders of the Prostate, 21–23 March 2001, Castres, France

Further details: Dr Mike Briley, Scientific Director, Pierre Fabre Medicament, Parc Industriel de la Chartreuse, F-81106 Castres Cedex, France (tel: +33 563 714 501; fax: +33 563 725; email: briley@pierre-fabre.imagenet.fr).

Call for papers—6th European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care, 29–31 March 2001, Bologna, Italy

Further details: BMA/BMJ Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP, UK (tel: +44 (0) 20 7383 6409; fax: +44 (0) 20 7383 6869; email: quality@bma.org.uk; website: www.quality.bmjpg.com).

Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS award 2001

The Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Essen, Germany, is awarding the above mentioned prize to investigators in the field of clinical and scientific HIV work. The prize is valued at 50 000 DM.

Papers that have been published in 2000 or are accepted for publication can be submitted to the foundation for anonymous review. The submitted papers must be received by 31 March 2001. The award will be presented to the winner as part of the 8th German AIDS Congress in Berlin.

Submissions should contain seven copies of the paper and should be sent to the: Joachim Kuhlmann AIDS Foundation, Bismarckstrasse 55, 45128 Essen, Germany.

Each of the submitted papers should contain a running title and may not indicate the names of the authors. An additional envelope should contain the running title on the outside and information in the inside as follows: first name, last name, date of birth, address, professional position, as well as the running title and the complete title of the submitted paper.

6th European Conference on Experimental AIDS Research (ECEAR 2001), 23–26 June 2001, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK

Further details: ECEAR 2001 Conference Secretary, Division of Retrovirology, NIBSC, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 3QG, UK.

International Congress of Sexually Transmitted Infections, 24–27 June 2001, Berlin, Germany

Further details: Congress Partner GmbH, Krausenstrasse 63, D-10117, Berlin, Germany (tel: +49-30-204 500 41; fax: +49-30-204 500 42; email: berlin@cpb.de).

10th International Congress on Behçet's Disease will be held in Berlin 27–29 June 2002

Further details: Professor Ch Zouboulis (email: zoubbere@zedat.fu-berlin.de).

20th World Congress of Dermatology, Paris, 1–5 July 2002

Further details: P Fournier, Colloquium, 12 rue de la Croix St Faubin, 75011 Paris, France (tel: +33 1 44 64 15 15; fax: +33 1 44 64 15 16; email: p.fournier@colloquium.fr; website: www.derm-wcd-2002.com).